# BS-SEEDLING POTATOES CHRISTMAS FLOWERS—

hould have a weak stimulant. Soot water is good or very weak liquid maure, but it must be weak. Keep the plants cool; forcing will result in fail-

Scotch soot water makes a good stimulant for palms.

Spireas do well in pots in warm or cool greenhouses. If too large for the pots they can be divided with a spade. The divisions can be pressed into shape to fit the pots. Give plenty of drainare and moderately rich soil-

## SWEET SCENTED FLOWERS.

This is the season when gardeners ere making plans for spring planting and there is always a search for plants with sweet scented flowers. A packet had of sweet scented flowering plants. Roses are favorites and the most fragrant are Gen. Jacqueminot, Caroline Testout and Irish Fireflame. The carations, lilies, tuberoses, jessamine oneysuckles and the fragrant foliage plants, such as the rose geraniur verbena, musk, lavender, &c. may be added to this list of most popular fragrant flowers and plants.

### CHEAP BULBS.

The seedsmen, owing to the late armade a very short season, still have on hand a large quantity of tulips, narcissus, crocus, &c., that may be bought very cheap. These can be planted in the open ground any time when the ground can be worked. Where the thaw it out sufficiently for planting the bulbs. If additional bulbs are wanted ask the dealers for special Hypcinths and crocus planted in pots

now will flower late this winter. Set

FOR SALE --- An interest in a valu-100 acres in Grapefruit, glands. Oranges, Limes, Mulgoba Mangoes In 1873 M. Benedict Roezel discovand Trapp Avocadoes, all of which are and 10 years old. Our last shipment of Avocadoes averaged \$10.00 per crate (3 dozen to the crate). Some ees-bore as many as 300 fruit. The to assist me in its management as I have a very large business at Elizabeth. N. J., that takes most of say time. Full particulars will be given, application. E. RUNYAN, P. O. Box 35, Elizabeth, N. J.

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for your selection.

Flowers can be grown with little trouble in the yesetable garden. To garden do not confine it to things that are good to eat, but raise a few flo as well, and the pleasure will be

Every piece of farm machinery should be put under cover. Grease all the bearings heavily and cover the exposed bright metal parts with cheap grease of some kind. Vaseline is good and can be had in large quantities at small cost. The iron frames and wheels of mowers, &c., should be painted. It is the height of extravagames to leave tools out in the weather at any season, particularly during winter. On a trip through the country Thanksgiving Day hundreds lements were noticed about the fields of various farms, evidently to be left out all winter.

## THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER.

The history and culture of the Christmas flower or poinsettia, Euphorbia pulcherrima, were given in The Sun a year ago. The following is an extract from an article on the same subject in the Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin for November:

"The Christmas flower, or Mexican flower leaf, is one of the few flowers of this family cultivated for ornamental purposes. The flowers are in-significant, but the brilliant bracts intensity of color and are so large that the effect produced is scarcely equalled by any other plant. Since its introduction from Mexico in 1834 the poinsettia has become much used for decoration at Christmas, its popularity being enhanced by the fact that even after the lower green leaves drop off the bracts remain for a long period.

"The plant is a shrub, growing from 2 to 10 feet high, in most shaded parts able fruit and vegetable plantation in of tropical Mexico and Central Cubs of 220 acres, all under cultiva- America. The upper leaves or bracts thirty miles west of Havana, are vermillon red, while the true with railroad running through the flowers are greenish, with large yellow

ered in a small Indian village in the State of Guerrero, Mexico, a double form, Euphorbia pulcherrima pienissima. The new form is remarkable for should be raised to 65 to 70. When its size, the head of the bracts measuring 18 inches across and 11 inches in largest part of the balance is planted depth. The central cyme of flowers is n vegetables. Frost unknown. Rea- surmounted by bracts from which son for selling an interest is to have other flowers develop on short stems, each surmounted by bracts and flowers. The secondary heads become further subdivided, culminating in a There are several other varieties of

the poinsettia. Euphorbia salmonea Adneti; E. lutescens, with greenish he Barflett Way

you can do so by employing enty Tree Experts to care for them.

All our men are experts. The Bartlett

variety, flowering earlier than the red variety, flowering earlier than the red and the flowers lasting much longer-Other varieties have yellowish and

When cut for decorative purposes couple of weeks until a callus is the stems are first plunged into boiling formed. The shoots are then removed water and then immediately into cold water to prevent wilting.

The plants after flowering in Janu-

ary should be placed on their sides in a temperature of 45 to 50 degrees F. and kept in a dormant condition until 30a \$3.50 period of rest. At this time they are remotted in new rich soil, the plants cut back to sound wood and placed or the roots by late potting; the plants sunny bench in the greenhouse at cannot endure having their roots disa temperature of 60 degrees. Aided by frequent syringing the buds soon start at the top, and in four or five weeks tained in the plants, insect pests are fiber of Valley includes Mossiber to plant and Bellvery postnaid. 25 Bulbs at 100 Rate plants are plunged in the open ground. The last cuttings are taken not later by may be eradicated by The last cuttings are taken not later syminging and fumigating or spraying tained in the plants, insect pests are than August, forming satisfactory plants in small pans for table decora-

tions at Christmas. Grant B Schley well known for his Make cuttings four to five inches long with a heel of the older wood, care being taken to leave at least one bud at the base, which will break and produce other cuttings. Some growers cut only half way through, and a day or two later sever the cutting from the parent plant so as not to waste the milky sap, and the cuttings made in this way are thought to root more readily. The cutting must be well spaded and kept moist. Sometimes the spaded and kept moist. Sometimes are spaded and kept moist. Sometimes the spaded and kept moist is spaded and kept moist. Sometimes the spaded and kept moist is spaded and kept moist. Sometimes the spaded is conservatories have frequently taken prizes at the shows in this city and vicinity. He paid thousands of dollars for some of his blooded cattle. There was always time with Mr. Schley to help any one interested in agriculture. He was a constant cuttings are potted singly in 21/2 inch pots of sand with a little sphagnum moss at the bottom for the roots t The pots are placed in a close frame, shaded and kept at 65 degrees. five of my farmers and gardeners, and As soon as cuttings are rooted they should be potted in three and a helf

philanthropy and for his patronage of horticulture, died at his home in Far Hills, N. J., November 22, aged 72 years. Mr. Schley operated a farm of about 1,800 acres, and the products of his conservatories have frequently agriculture. He was a constant reader of THE SUN. A year ago, December 19, 1916, he wrote with his own hand: "I enjoy THE SUNDAY SUN and have taken it for the benefit of they, too, consider the helpful hints in the garden department, chicken suggestions, &c.'

Horticulturists have lost a friend, and New Jersey one of her best and most respected citizens in the death of Grant B. Schley.

THE SUN GARDENING NOTES-SIT The little story of the tree in the gardening notes of Sunday's Sun by your London correspondent may po ecasion inquiry from some of your readers. Among the many varieties of native and foreign Berberis Iedo not recall mention of any member of that quite large family of generally low growing, shrubby plants, interesting and resourceful as they mostly are, for ornamental planting, which has grown into such decidedly treelike form as that described by Mrs. Okie at Sonning on the Thames, certainly not B. vulgaris; B. stanophyla I do not

I suggest that her tree may be one of Nyssa, villosa or multiflora, Pepperioge, Tupelo, and in the South called the Sour Gum, an interesting tree for selective planting, with a lik-JNO. Y. CULTER. Dec. 8, 1917.

F. D. W. The ground will be before they can be dug this year. If and its may be remarked none was

If possible it will be better not to If the roses are hardy roses it will be better to transplant them now rather than try to keep them in a cellar until spring.

Tulip bulbs should also be moved now rather than later, also raspberry bushes.

## REEDLING POTATOES.

There has been unusual interest in many letters regarding the subject, style of stem and shape of leaf, al- another were placed in the flue while gnawed by wire worms. These when has long been the custom of those some reporting failures. The article though on a diminutive scale. About earth was being added, care being the furnace flue was tilted were living on that farm to carve their in-



inch pots, in a mixture of loam, leaf below covers the results over a period the middle of August the growth be-mold and clean sand. Keep them of two years. Two hundred and sixty came vigorous and the stems began to shaded for a few days and moist by potatoes cut up for planting next sprawl out and tangle one with an-frequent syringing. After that full spring will be sufficient to plant 500 other. They were "combed," so to sunlight and plenty of fresh air are hills required.

The temperature should never go

below 50 degrees at night, and as soon

the bracts and flowers have developed

properly the temperature should be

decreased gradually to harden the

plants off and thus increase their last-

three parts good loam and one part

one part prepared sheep manure. The

young plants are given liquid menure

low temperature, draughts, starvation

at the roots, when, because of poor soil

or lack of root room or disturbance of

turbed when near the flowering period.

Due to the acrid milky fuice con-

ing qualities.

with tobacco.

Mr. Stuart says that the seed ball, which was the basis of his experi-ments, was the first seen in his fields since 1870, when they were plentiful,

## A POTATO BALL 1915-16.

During the summer of 1915 one of the potato plants in a thrifty Tioronda on the Hudson garden ripened For the final potting the plants are a berry, or, as commonly called, "poshifted from three and a half inch to tato ball." Search revealed no comsix inch pots, using a mixture of panions. It would have been otherwise forty years ago, when a patch of ordinary size would have yielded a dozen or more of these yellowish balls about the size of a cherry. Now, cow manure, or five parts loam and however, the stocks have lost vigor If the plants become too tall during and the graceful blossoms drop withthe summer the stems are ringed within six or seven inches of the top fore, was put away for planting.

speak, and each vine led outward, so as not to interfere with its neighbors. During September and far into October the growth cominued, resulting in a mat of deep verdure-not a rusty leaf to be seen—thus showing a thriv-ing condition. As the nights were growing frosty a cheese cloth canopy was drawn over the patch at sundown and taken off after the sun had risen. There no longer was any fear of crab grass. The dense leafage smothered

every invader. The stems enlarged as they grew onward and became more succulent, away the leaflet on which they were till at last they were fully the size of feeding. Not a single Colorado beetle and held the appearance of ordinary visited them, although the patch on and single birds recommended for potato plants. The stems reached a the other side of the garden had a breeding stock by large commercial length of three feet and one carried a few of their disgusting progeny. The and small suburban poultry raisers, few buds, which, however, did not tiny hopping black beetle fled from out perfecting fruit. This ball, there come to open flower. About the first sprinklings of snuff so that insect On March 6, 1916, the little ob- of November the majority of the sev- plagues cut no figure and there was about the last of August, cutting half On March 6, 1916, the little ob-way through at first, and left for a ject—it had shrivelled to the size of enteen suddenly lost the fresh vivid not the least sign of blight. Their tormed. The shoots are then removed and potted in three inch pots and flower pot with half an inch of earth above it. Before the month ended a partly above the shoots the shoots are then removed the shoots are the shoots often much of the beauty of the bunch of plantlets pushed off the linguistic fresh and strong and one in poinsettia is lost by allowing the hand-some green foliage to become yellow trap door and peered forth. One could green to the end. Both vines were and drooping. This is caused by too



Photo by Max Schling. Made up pan of poinsettias.

slightest resemblance to the sturdy canopy and curtains of gunny sacks shoot which emerges in the potato field from the cutting deep below the moment. surface. These plantlets in the flower pot looked like bits of white thread capped with two round leaflets the area of a pinhead. Beyond clinging to life they showed little change during several weeks, and seemed to lack

In the middle of May they were been the site of a blackberry patch, and when the vines had run out their places had been taken by poison ivy and blackcaps. The re-moval of these left a light soil. entirely free from artificial enrichment, noved before spring, take them up as a work of care, lest the tiny stems be plantlet gently inserted, and the earth made to close softly around. Then to insure protection against the sun the plant was shaded for a couple of days. There proved to be seventeen plants. The holes were what at the time The

seemed a lonesome distance spart. The plants took hold at onceso as to permit growth till the latest Finally, on Nov. 9, it was seen that the potatoes must be gathered and so although still vigorous they were pulled away with the with-

ered stalks of their companions. The seventeen plantlets of March were found to have produced 196 potaany inclination to come further into toes of various sizes. Those which had been exposed to the light were greenish in hue. As might be expected the transplanted to a plot in the garden. vigorous survivor of the patch gave. The spot chosen had for a great many the best result. It produced two tubers, the best result. It produced two tubers, allotted to the pigs. For this purpose one which measured in circumference a large fron kettle was in evidence on lengthways nine inches and in girth every farm. The kettle was set on six inches. The other was larger, but three or four large stones near the its shape was marred by a knob the sty and every other day the potatoes size of a hickory nut. There was one were thrown in and boiled. And there 71/2x7 inches, and another 7x6 inches, comes to recollection, how we were and from these four specimens the rest wont to pluck one of these from the s of clematis, Dutchman's pipe, added during the ensuing period. graded down to pellets the size of a steaming caldron to appease the hun-bushes and peoples must be Transplanting these filaments proved cherry. Every one was well filled out ger which is normal with boys upon and free from scab, but two or three the farm. soon as possible with a large ball of crushed. With a match stick a hole had been gnawed by a wire worm earth and set them in the new loca- about an inch deep was made and a though not to such an extent as to destroy planting quality.

The best of the 196 potatoes were sorted out to be carried through the winter and as there was risk storing them in the root cellar, the following method was adopted. A discarded furnace flue was punched with a dozen or more nail holes and placed upright one of the seventeen—but still they in a large flower pot, in the bottom grew slowly, and it was necessary to of which lay a pebble over the drainweed diligently to keep out the crab age hole so as to prevent the entrance grass, which invaded this congenial soil of a field mouse from below. The five and threatened to swallow the pigmies. and pot were then placed in a pit They grew along at this same cautious three feet deep. Sixty of the best rate till August and by that time had tubers were selected—all the greenish growing potatoes from seed the last rate till August and by that time had tubers were selected—all the greenish year or two and we have received put on the family characteristics as to balls being rejected—and one after style of stem and shape of leaf, al- another were placed in theefine while

taken that no tuber should rest in actual contact with its neighbor. Dry leaves were stuffed in, filling the balance of the flue to its top which then was capped by a flower pot topped by a stone over the hole as in the case of the lower pot. Thus there was no stagnation within and the inroad of rodents was barred. The pit was filled with dry leaves and trash to keep the frost from entering the flue laterally and the filling was heaped over the top of the flower pot. The covering was kept in place by a few boards laid over the mass. Protection was requisite as the spot chosen was a bleak location where the chosen was a bleak location where the frost usually penetrated deeply.

In the second week of April, 1917, the boards were tossed aside. The boards were tossed aside. The file was lifted and tilted. Out rolled a trifle more than a pound and was the leaves condition. They from seah. The others were of the box turtle always inhabits dry

the sleepers in perfect condition. They free from scab. The others were of were in fact so plump that one had lesser size and the lot weighed six were in fact so plump that one has been as pounds. They were a surprise indeed, woods, where it sometimes buries itself to look closely to discern the eyes, as pounds. They were a surprise indeed, woods, where it sometimes buries itself to look closely to discern the eyes, as pounds. They were a surprise indeed, woods, where it sometimes buries in old, dry leaves. It is entirely they were faintly outlined.

Entire tubers were planted. Not until May 24 did a shoot appear.

view and a green tuft appeared beside its marker. Every one came up. On its marker. Every one came up. On June 2 the first dose of Bordeaux wash was splashed lightly on them and the dose was repeated at weekly intervals. Weeds were relentlessly exterminated, but the great vigor of the shoots soon aided and weeds stood no chance even when overlooked. Although entire tubers had been planted and one tubers had been planted and one pigeon Association at Madison Square tubers have expected a profusion of the New York Poultry and Pigeon Association at Madison Square Results of Lancaster, Pa. might have expected a profusion of shoots from the eyes, yet about half ever, was sturdy and held itself like a Madison Square Garden, and as there soldier. From it branched limbs and these locking arms with the branches show in New York this winter a on the adjoining stocks, steadled one another so that as a rule there was little sprawling and the line in its uniformity of growth gave a pleasing with T. A. Havemeyer, the president, impression. While they were in this and now the oldest exhibitor as an stage every shoot at sundown closed its top leaves together after the manner of the water lily. The other half sent up from two to six shoots. The six shooter came from the extra large potato, but these stalks were not as sturdy as the single stalk variety. About July 1 they came into blos-

som and the bloom was profuse. The cymes bore from a dozen to fifteen care entailed the slightest amount of

neighborized, numbering doubtless poultry breeders.
thousands of stocks, only a few balls Over thirty spe could be found. It shows how obscure hold their annual meetings at the are the factors which bring about the Garden during the Poultry and Pigeon production of these balls by our mod- Show. ern potato.

were gathered and placed in a little the intention of breeders in the Dochina jar for preservation. As they mellowed the jar gave forth an aroma to the Garden the last day, January almost identical with the perfume of a perfect muskmelon. Whether they vould prove edible is a conjecture. They belong to the family which claims undesirable citizen.

Digging occurred September 11, 917. Two hundred and sixty-two tubers of eatable size (very small ones having been thrown aside) were found to have been produced in the forty hills, and these weighed 41% pounds. The vagaries were numerous. All the 262 were white, but spots of scab on ome showed that the ground remained infected from a crop raised there in 1912. A number were injured by a second growth induced by a heavy rain, but were usable. Sixty-three of the lot were primes. One of these drew favorable comment from compe tent observers. It measured 1214 inches in circumference lengthways. ounces. Another was 184x7% and weighed 14% ounces, but was deep eyed and rougher.

Phree plants of profuse leafage and which developed a sprawling tendency produced fourteen tubers, similar in shape to undersized sweet potatoes. They brought back memories of the been seen before at the Garden; rose "left overs" of old times which were A number were of irregular shape.

In some instances the knobs were so nearly of the tuber's size that it really a cluster of tubers. One of the of the three plants which had pro-duced seedballs. It will be seen that The date following the last set of insix tubers to a plant, and as all of the themselves are unknown. There were 263 can be consumed on the table or also on the same shell, "G. I. S., '08." in part reserved for planting next season, the experiment justified itself the turtle was when first marked. The largest was baked and proved to

Before closing this review a few 1793, showing that the shelled ani-words should be added with regard to mal had lived on that farm and imthe three tubers which had been mediate violnity at least 114 years. It

Forty of the sixty were selected for planting and on April 12, were carefully put in place, twenty inches apart. Entire tubers were planted. "borrowed" from the cask where was apart. Entire tubers were planted. "borrowed" from the cask where was apart. Entire tubers were planted. Around each tuber, but not in con- mixed the main supply for the garden give their personal exertion in stav-ing off starvation cannot (like the but after that the regiment came into plumber) "charge for time" there was

DUTCHESS COUNTY GARDENES.

Garden on December 28 to January 1, both inclusive. Charles D. Cleveland sent up only one stalk. That, how- has reopened the executive offices at is to be no opposition poultry or pigeon record entry is expected for the time honored fixture that for its entire existence has been a particular hobby with T. A. Havemeyer, the president, and now the oldest exhibitor as an amateur in the United States of fantall pigeons, red game bantams and White Wyandottes.

BEAUCE COUNTY MAPLE SUGAR The undersigned is the holder of all the market. I have about 2 carboads of hard aquare block good strong Maple Sugar. Anyone interested can teler writing or call on JOS GAGNON.

St. George, East Beauce County Guebe As America's leading poultry and

pigeon show the Madison Square Garden fixture has become the great annual exchange and meeting place of all breeders of standard poultry, pigeon raisers and the collateral trade lines. Advantage of the fact has been creamy blossoms and contrasted beau- taken by the Government, and there A few sluglike larve attacked at this stage, but their numbers never maximum in eggs and for the table at were great and it was easy to nip the minimum of cost, as tried out and tested at the Government farms. The Government will exhibit flocks

besides special displays of pigeons of most value as squabs and for the pot, and, as an appreciation for the demand for homers as war messengers, of trained carrier pigeons with homing of trained carrier pigeons with homing records. There will also be exhibits More Than \$100,000,000 a Year. The blossoming was persistent till of record carriers by the American toward the first of August, although Federation of Homer Pigeon Fanciers. the flowers dropped about a week after. In the educational department there their opening. Three of the stocks de- will be daily motion picture talks by seed balls and these were experts on topics of importance to much larger than the 1915 parent ball, poultry and pigeon raisers. The lecme measured two and a half inches turers will include Government and in circumference. Nine balls were British and American experts from the borne by one plant which came from agricultural colleges. Two subjects a tuber hardly larger than a boy's that will be expounded from every

so small in fact there was practical viewpoint will be the importdoubt whether or not it was worth ance for food conservation of feeding planting. Close scrutiny could not de- inexpensive grain and the necessity of tect any special peculiarity in these using every reliable means of keeping bearing plants unless possibly a lighter up the egg production. The needs and shade of green in the foliage, but even this may have been imaginary. So raisers will be another topic to be that when all is said no reason in treated by the experts, with direct topic to be the control of the contr particular appears why every one of offers of assistance by advice and in the forty did not fruit as well as these procuring foundation breeding stock three. However, on the patches in the to induce novices to set up as small Over thirty special breed clubs will

Show. There will be Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey and New One by one the balls ripened and York State days, and in recognition of minion to bring their best specimens 1. will be Canadian Day. There are 985 poultry and 808

pigeon classes with cash prizes in each, the aggregate being \$15,000, and the tomato, pepper and egg plant, of great value to us, and which includes cash prizes and trophies in plate. Belikewise the stramonium, certainly an sides the birds in competition there will be hundreds of exhibition pens of poultry and pigeons, with a wonderful collection of rare ornamental birds, game birds and wild and domesticated waterfowl in enclosed tanks. Pit games will be exhibited by the amateur and commercial specialists in thoroughbred strains and an exhibit is expected for the first time from a celebrated amateur breeder of pit games in Cuba. By a ruling of the American Poul-

try Association the Garden show has this year been designated for the display of new varieties of fowl seeking admission to the poultry stud book. "The American Standard of Perfection." An entry must consist of cock, hen, cockerel and pullet, with the data to prove the breed is not a "sport" but thoroughly reproductive in type. The new varieties in question, for which classifications have been made, are Buttercups, a breed with cocktail glass combs that har comb buff, black and white Orpingtons; Rhinelanders, Pearl Guineas and Missouri Fluffs.

Washing eggs destroys the protect ing film with which they are and hastens their spoiling. Keeping eggs.

On the farm of George L. Stillman

the Westerly, R. I., dahlia specialist, a box or land turtle was found bearing on its shell the date 1849 and the initials A. S., believed to be those of Adam Stillman, grandfather of largest and best tubers came from one George L. Stillman. There were also the yield was at a rate of more than itials was not legible, and the initials There is no way of knowing ho In the fall of 1107 there was found be all that could be desired for table on the same farm a similar turtle bearing the initials "P. M." and date

tact, was sprinkled a tablespoonful of use. All told, it could not have country in 1695. It is not an uncomfertilizer, worked by the fingers into amounted to a quart. The forty tableoriginal George Stillman came to the the earth and then the soil was drawn spoonfuls of fertifizer, likewise "borover them. A marker was pushed in rowed," fell under the same head. The of these turtles on this farm in the above and they were left to nature's snuff cost 5 cents, and as farmers who house was built in 1748 and is still

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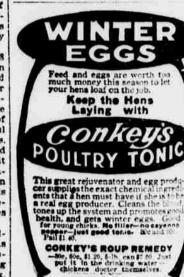
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